

U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the return of an indictment charging two New Jersey men, Mohamed Saad Elsharkawy and Mohammed M. Abdellatif with conspiracy to commit identification fraud and identification fraud. Arraignments will be scheduled for both defendants in the near future. If convicted, Elsharkawy faces a maximum sentence of 90 years in prison and \$1.5 million in fines. If convicted, Abdellatif faces a maximum sentence of 60 years in prison and \$1,000,000 in fines.

The Indictment, returned on November 5, 2002, alleges that in 2000 and 2001, Elsharkawy and Abdellatif obtained unauthorized identification documents, such as an identification cards and driver's licenses from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles through the use of a false address in Richmond, Virginia. The indictment alleges that ElSharkawy submitted a false residency certification for Abdellatif, stating that Elsharkawy and Abdellatif lived at an address in Richmond, Virginia, which, in fact, did not exist.

The case was investigated by agents of the FBI, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, and INS and is being prosecuted for the United States by AUSAs David T. Maguire and S. David Schiller.